



BEST AVAILABLE COPY

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	Zarouri)
)
Serial No:	10/776,730) Art Unit
) 2632
Filed:	February 10, 2004)
)
For:	Device and Method for Preventing Upper Respiratory Diseases ...)
)
Examiner:	Pham, Toan Ngoc)
)
Attorney Docket:	20028.01)

DECLARATION OF MOURAD ZAROURI PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. 1.131

I, Mourad Zarouri, declare as follows:


1. I have knowledge of the facts contained herein, and if called as a witness, could and would competently testify thereto.
2. I am the inventor of the present invention that is encompassed within U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/776,730 (the "Present Application"). At least prior to June 20, 2002, I conceived in the United States, a sensor assembly for monitoring movement of an object near a head-neck region of an animal, the sensor assembly including :a sensor that detects movement of the object near the head-neck region of the animal; and a counter that monitors the number of times that the sensor detects movement of the object near the head-neck region. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is document entitled "Method and Apparatus to Help Modify Some Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Behaviors" that was written by me prior to June 20, 2002.
3. Further, this invention was constructively reduced to practice at least as early as February 12, 2003 in U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/446,901. The present application claims priority on this provisional application.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

4. Between and prior to June 20, 2002 and February 12, 2003, I took many steps to reduce the invention to practice, including, but not limited to (i) Met with venture capital firms and tech angels to raise capital; (ii) Met with companies to form partnership to prototype and manufacture device; (iii) Wrote business plan for TutelaHealth; (iv) Further refined and developed the concept; (v) Recruited potential executives for the business; (vi) Met with leading physicians in the field of infection control and OCD behaviors; (vii) Met with attorney to determine if device could be patented; (viii) Researched components to make device; (ix) Acquired components to make the device; and (x) Started work on the prototype with partners.

I declare that the facts set forth in this declaration are true; and that all statements made on my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing therefrom.

Executed on this 9th day of January, 2006, in Lake Forest, California.


MOUBAD ZAROURI



Method and Apparatus to Help Modify Some Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Behaviors

Field of the Invention

The present invention generally relates to behavior modification and involves the use of personal protective equipment.

Abstract

The invention is a method and apparatus that helps individuals suffering from Obsessive Compulsive Disorders (OCD) such as Trichotillomania and nail biting control the undesirable behavior. The device works by notifying the individual wearing it prior or just as the behavior is occurring. The device or devices can be worn on the wrists, chest or neck area and can be comprised of a combination of sensors or a single sensor that alerts the individual when his hands or fingers get close to his face and neck area.

Background

Trichotillomania is a disease that affects as much as 2% of the population. It is characterized by the recurrent pulling out of one's eyebrows, eyelashes, or hair. The two methods of treatment that have been scientifically researched and found to be effective are behavioral therapy and medications. Behavioral therapy is the preferred method as it is free of potential medication side effect. In addition, behavioral therapy is more effective in the long run as the effectiveness of the medication tends to fall off after 3 months of treatment. This invention is a tool to help with the behavioral therapy. Current tools are passive and rely on the patient to count the times they engage in the undesirable behavior and record it on a counter that is worn on the wrist. Other devices simply remind the patient not to engage in the particular behavior. This invention is an active device that senses when the behavior is occurring, notifies the patient that it is occurring with an auditory or vibratory signal and automatically records the occurrence. This device can therefore be used to prevent the behavior from occurring and also can be used to modify the behavior by providing feedback to the patient and therapist with protective devices such as masks and eye goggles are cumbersome and have not been well received even by individuals in high-risk work environments such as hospitals and schools. Therefore, a small device to discourage contact disease transmission that can be comfortably worn on the chest, neck or wrist area is also highly desirable.

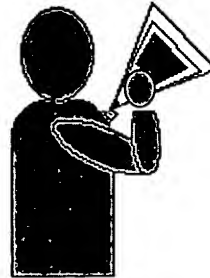
Description of the Invention

The invention consists of a single or plurality of sensors that detect when a hand / arm is approaching the face. The sensor(s) will then trigger an auditory, vibratory, or other type of alarm thereby alerting the individual that he or she is about to touch their face. The sensor can be worn anywhere on the upper torso, i.e., chest, neck, shoulder etc., and / or on the wrist, arm and fingers. In one embodiment, the device can be worn as a pin on the chest area (see figure 1) above or below clothing such as a jacket lapel. In this particular

embodiment, the device is a single ultrasonic sensor that detects obstruction to the signal that it emits as soon as the object is ~ 6" close. There are many other types of sensors that could be used such as hall effect, capacitance, inductive, magnetic, laser, slope and tilt sensors, etc. The list is not meant to be all-inclusive but simply to illustrate that there are many types of proximity, position and directional sensors that could be used. The device can also be a combination of sensors as illustrated in figure 2. In that embodiment the device is worn on a wristband and is comprised of a proximity and slope / tilt sensor. Some sensors will require that the device be split into two parts. As an example, a sensor that emits a light beam and is worn on the chest area could require that a reflective surface be worn in the wrist area to sense the hand approaching. In yet another embodiment, the device could be worn underneath the clothes so as to be hidden from view. The device can also be appended to a necklace, watchband or any work tools such as a stethoscope or badge, as long as it is placed in the appropriate area.



IDLE



SENSOR TRIGGERED

FIGURE 1. Pin Sensor



Figure 2. Watch Sensor

